

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2003

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 14**

**Introduced by Senators Florez and Karnette**

April 21, 2003

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to the Federal Communications Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 14, as amended, Florez. Federal Communications Commission.

This measure would ~~memorialize~~ *request* the Federal Communications Commission to formally delay the finalizing of the proposed rulemaking to promote competition and diversity in the media marketplace, and to schedule ~~a~~ *an official* public hearing to be held not later than June ~~15~~ *1*, 2003, in the Los Angeles area to facilitate the widest possible involvement of key elements of the creative community in the state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has  
2 issued a notice of proposed rulemaking on longstanding  
3 regulations that are designed to promote competition and diversity  
4 in the media marketplace; and

5 WHEREAS, The California State Legislature believes that the  
6 public's access to a multiplicity of information sources is a  
7 governmental purpose of the highest order; and

8 WHEREAS, It has long been a basic tenet of national  
9 communications policy that the widest possible dissemination of

1 information sources from diverse and even antagonistic sources is  
2 essential to the health and welfare of our democracy; and

3 WHEREAS, The relaxation or elimination of numerous federal  
4 media concentration regulations in recent years has let to an  
5 unprecedented wave of consolidation in media ownership; and

6 WHEREAS, The impact of the unprecedented consolidation of  
7 power in the hands of a few vertically integrated national media  
8 chains have adversely impacted the once vital economic  
9 community of independent producers in our state; and

10 WHEREAS, It appears that the predatory practices of merged  
11 media has choked competition and stifled innovation to the  
12 detriment of the general public; and

13 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has  
14 held only one public hearing on the issue, and its chairperson has  
15 repeatedly signaled that the proposed rulemaking will become  
16 finalized in the coming months of this year; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*  
18 *jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully requests the Federal  
19 Communications Commission to formally delay the finalizing of  
20 the proposed rulemaking to promote competition and diversity in  
21 the media marketplace in order for appropriate public hearings to  
22 be held so that critical issues may be fully ventilated in a public  
23 forum; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Federal ~~communications~~ *Communications*  
25 Commission schedule ~~a~~ *an official* public hearing to be held not  
26 later than June 15, 2003, in the Los Angeles area to facilitate the  
27 widest possible involvement of key elements of the creative  
28 community in the state; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
30 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
31 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
32 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
33 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
34 States.

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